

January 26, 1996 LR 41

compensation and put us against the trend of reducing telephone rates as the other 30 states that have done this since the mid-nineties have done, and we haven't participated. This is not a ringing endorsement for the Legislature being the final word for the consumer, in my estimation. It is a point only direct...only tangentially related to LR 41. But we will...what we're saying is that we apparently are to be trusted with this. We've already proven we can't be trusted, in my estimation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Schimek, to speak to the Landis amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President, I'd like to yield my time to Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Landis, I would yield you a minute of my time.

SENATOR LANDIS: (Microphone not activated immediately.) ...my amendment so that we can get directly back on the topic of LR 41CA.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The amendment is withdrawn. We return to a discussion of LR 41. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, Senator Brown, if I could engage you again.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: I'll be shorter this time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Even though I'm already engaged. (Laughter. Applause.) In any event, what I wanted to ask you was again exploring this structuring and how this all would work so it's clear in my mind and hopefully everybody else's. But right now with regard to the Public Service Commission, by and large we tell them, by statute, what they can do. So...but the constitution gives them some additional powers, whether or not we empower them by statute. Is that not correct?

SENATOR BROWN: It makes certain requirements of public service